

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

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DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:RWSMITH/CTF:HEKIRBY:SJP

APPROVED BY PM/SAS:JFLADD

PM/SAS - MR. JAMES

EUR/RPM - MR. REHFELD

DOD/DSAA - MR. BETTELEY

PM/MC - MR. SUCHINSKY

EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN

EUR/WE - MR. VINE

S/S-O:RELTZ

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P 12159Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, TU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF F-104 AIRCRAFT TO TURKEY

REF: CHMAAG ROME TEL 070735Z (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED LOCKHEED REQUEST TO AMEND
LICENSING AGREEMENT OF MARCH 2, 1961, BETWEEN LOCKHEED AND
ITALIAN MOD RELATING TO ITALIAN PRODUCTION OF F-104'S TO
ADD TURKEY TO LIST OF NATO COUNTRIES TO WHICH ITALY CAN
TRANSFER THESE AIRCRAFT UPON US APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC TRANS-
FER REQUESTS. THIS IS PURELY TECHNICAL DECISION. WE
EMPHASIZED TO LOCKHEED THAT OUR APPROVAL OF THIS AMENDMENT
DID NOT CONNOTE USG APPROVAL TO TRANSFER THE 18 F-104'S
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WHICH TURKS WISH TO ACQUIRE FROM ITALY IN COMING WEEKS, A MATTER WE ARE NOW STUDYING. WE STRESSED THAT 1973 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3(A) OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO NOTIFY CONGRESS IN ADVANCE OF ANY DECISION BY USG TO APPROVE SUCH THIRD-PARTY TRANSFERS. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO STANDARD LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF TRANSFERRED ITEMS (IN THIS CASE, TURKEY) PROVIDE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER ASSURANCES IN WRITING TO USG.

2. PARA 4, REFTEL, NOTES THAT ITALIAN MFA IS NOW STUDYING PROPOSAL TO SELL ITALIAN-PRODUCED 104'S TO TURKEY AND IS LIKELY TO AGREE TO SALE. EMBASSY ROME IS REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS TO CONFIRM WHETHER MFA HAS APPROVED PROPOSED SALE. IN APPROACHING MFA, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT US HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO APPROVE THIS THIRD-COUNTRY

TRANSFER, BUT THAT WE NEED TO KNOW GOI DECISION BEFORE WE CAN COMPLETE OUR OWN CONSIDERATION OF SALE.

3. FOR BONN: LOCKHEED REP DEPARTED AUG 14 FOR FRG WHERE HE IS ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE 2 TF-104'S WHICH FRG MIGHT BE WILLING TO TRANSFER TO TURKEY (REFTEL). HE WILL THEN PROCEED TO ROME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI. REQUEST YOU ASCERTAIN IF FRG HAS DECIDED TO TRANSFER TF-104'S TO TURKEY, AND IF SO, RELAY TO DEPARTMENT FRG REQUEST TO USG TO APPROVE SUCH TRANSFER. EXPLAIN TO FRG THAT US HAS NOT YET MADE DECISION ON WHETHER IT WILL IN FACT APPROVE TRANSFER. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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